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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/648)*]

57/279. Procurement reform

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/214 B and 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 52/212 B of 31 March 1998, 52/252 of 8 September 1998, 53/204 and 53/208 B of 18 December 1998, 54/14 of 29 October 1999 and 55/247 of 12 April 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Stressing the importance of ensuring the safety of United Nations personnel and United Nations equipment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and of the comments and observations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in addressing the concerns expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/247;

3. *Welcomes also* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to hold procurement seminars in various cities, in particular those located in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and urges him to intensify his efforts in this regard;

4. *Notes* the activities of the Common Services Procurement Working Group on enhancing the transparency and increasing the harmonization of procurement practices, and encourages the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue their work in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the organizations of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, to improve their procurement practices, inter alia, by simplifying the registration process for vendors that have already registered with another body of the United Nations system, utilizing, among other things, the Internet, and by placing the procurement information on their respective web sites;

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[1] A/57/187.

[2] A/57/7/Add.1, paras. 2–9. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7*.

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the organizations of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, to take further steps to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, through, inter alia, the technical assessment of vendors, that air safety standards are met for all United Nations air transport operations and, where feasible, for freight forwarding;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the United Nations Secretariat and affiliated funds and programmes fully implement all recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors regarding procurement, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, on matters relating to procurement in the field, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations follows the principles of objectivity and impartiality while advising the Procurement Division;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, no later than at its fifty-ninth session, a report on safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services, in particular in the area of cargo airlifts, for the United Nations peacekeeping missions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on all other aspects of procurement reform, no later than at its fifty-ninth session.

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002